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PATENT  
BALIN-56314

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of

Michael E. Tompkins, et al.

Serial No. 09/761,264

Filing Date: January 16, 2001

For: SPA CONTROL SYSTEM

Date: July 27, 2001

Examiner:

Art Unit: 2153

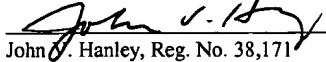
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on July 27, 2001.

  
John R. Hanley, Reg. No. 38,171

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

The captioned application is a continuation of U.S. Serial No. 08/822,179. Before action, please amend the captioned application as follows:

**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

At page 1, after the title "SPA CONTROL SYSTEM" please delete the first paragraph spanning lines 2-10 and please add the following paragraph to the specification.

This application is a continuation of U.S. patent Application Serial No. 08/822,179 filed March 20, 1997, now U.S. Patent No. 6,253,227, which is a continuation of U.S. Application **08/703,177**  
Serial No. ~~08/703,177~~ filed August 23, 1996, now abandoned, which is a continuation of U.S. **08/703,177**  
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